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ABSTRACT

The transcripts of 82 Los Angeles City College (LACC) students who transferred to the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA) in Fall 1978 were analyzed to determine: (1) student demographic characteristics; (2) the number of semesters students had completed at LACC; (3) the last high school the students had attended; (4) the collegiate level at which they transferred (i.e., freshman, sophomore, etc.); (5) the UCLA department into which the students transferred; (6) the number of quarter units completed at UCLA by the students through Spring 1980; (7) the grade point averages (GPA's) earned by the students in various UCLA departments; and (8) students' GPA's at UCLA by sex, age, ethnic background, and major. Selected findings reveal that 56.1% of the students were female, approximately 60% belonged to a minority group, and the median age at transfer was 23 years. Most of the students (73%) entered as juniors, and 83% entered UCLA's College of Letters and Sciences. The overall GPA earned by the students through Spring 1980 was 2.87; 42% earned a "B" or above, and only 8% earned below a "C" average. On the average, females earned higher grades than males; older students performed better than younger ones; and Whites and Hispanics achieved higher GPA's than Asians or Blacks. The study report details findings on a series of tables. (JP)

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LOS ANGELES CITY COLLEGE

"The Fall 1978 Transfers from LACC to UCLA: An In-Depth Look"

Research Study #81-6

Ben K. Gold
Research Office
May 1981

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PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

The University of California has traditionally furnished to community colleges detailed information about their transfer students. For the past several years, primarily due to concerns about recent privacy of information acts, information has been provided in summary form only.

Also, in the past several years, the numbers of transfers from community colleges to the University has declined significantly. Questions have also been raised about the quality of performance of the transfer students.

In order to address some of these concerns, Dr. Gerald Kissler and Dr. Juan Lara of UCLA invited researchers from six local community colleges (LACC, ELAC, LAVC, LAPC, Santa Monica, El Camino) which provide significant numbers of transfers to UCLA to meet with them and discuss possible research projects which might provide information regarding trends in transfer attendance and performance.

At the meeting, Dr. Kissler agreed to send detailed information about transfers to UCLA in Fall 1978 that was available in the UCLA computer. Shortly thereafter, LACC received computer printouts on 97 former LACC students who entered UCLA in Fall 1978.

The purpose of this study is to analyze and assess the significance of these data.

PROCEDURE OF THE STUDY

The data sent by UCLA included names, various characteristics, and complete UCLA academic records through Spring 1978. The LACC Research Office then obtained LACC records for these students. Items thought relevant to the investigation were then keypunched into IBM cards and the data analyzed by use of SPSS (Statistical Package for Social Sciences) programs on the District computer. Appreciation is expressed to Richard Staniukynas of the Student Data Center for his assistance in processing the data.

FINDINGS

Of the 97 LACC transfers to UCLA in Fall 1978, 15 were admitted by Special Action, thus not "charged" to LACC, and therefore not included* in the analysis to follow. The summaries of characteristics below include these 82 "charged" students (unfortunately the UCLA information did not separate "eligibles" from "ineligibles"), while the academic performance data excludes from this number four students who completed no work at UCLA.

The following tables summarize the findings of the study:

*with certain exceptions, as indicated.

TABLE 1 - Sex

Male	36	(43.9)
Female	46	(56.1)
	82	(100.0)

TABLE 2 - Ethnic

White		34	(41.5)
Asian:		26	(31.7)
S.E. Asian	9		
Korean	7		
Chinese	5		
Filipino	3		
Japanese	2		
Black		14	(17.1)
Hispanic		8	(9.8)
		82	(100.0)

TABLE 3 - Age at Time of Transfer

Less than 20	6	(7.3)
20-24	46	(56.1)
25-29	10	(12.2)
30-34	15	(18.3)
35-39	1	(1.2)
40-44	3	(3.7)
45-49	0	(0.0)
50-54	1	(1.2)
	82	(100.0)

Mean 25.3
Median 22.8

TABLE 4 - First Semester at LACC

Prior to F'74	13	(15.8)
F'74	8	(9.8)
S'75	2	(2.4)
F'75	14	(17.1)
S'76	5	(6.1)
F'76	17	(20.7)
S'77	5	(6.1)
F'77	12	(14.6)
S'78	6	(7.3)
	82	(100.0)

TABLE 5 - Number of Semesters Attended LACC (not including summers)

one	6	(7.3)
two	13	(15.9)
three	7	(8.5)
four	14	(17.1)
five	13	(15.9)
six	12	(14.6)
seven	7	(8.5)
eight	4	(4.9)
more than eight	6	(7.3)
	82	(100.0)

TABLE 6 - No. of Summers Attended at LACC

none	26	(31.7)
one	26	(31.7)
two	18	(22.0)
three	9	(11.0)
four	2	(2.4)
five	0	(0.0)
six	1	(1.2)
	82	(100.0)

Mean 1.3
Median 1.1

TABLE 7 - Semester Units Completed at LACC

0-15	8	(9.8)
16-30	11	(13.4)
31-45	9	(11.0)
46-60	22	(26.8)
61-75	12	(14.6)
76-90	18	(22.0)
91-105	1	(1.2)
106-120	1	(1.2)
	82	(100.0)

Mean 52.3
Median 54.3

TABLE 8 - Last High School Attended

L.A. City		34	(41.5)
	Hollywood 6		
	Belmont 5		
	Marshall 4		
	Dorsey 3		
	Fairfax 3		
	Manual Arts 3		
	Los Angeles 2		
	Others 8		
Other California		10	(12.2)
	Public 5		
	Private 5		
Other U.S.		19	(23.2)
	North East 6		
	South 5		
	Central 5		
	So. Eastern 3		
Foreign		19	(23.2)
	Far East 11		
	Middle East 3		
	West. Europe 2		
	Latin Amer. 1		
	Canada 1		
	So. Pacific 1		
Total		82	(100.0)
	Mean 25.3		
	Median 22.8		

TABLE 9 - Entering Level at UCLA

Freshman	3	(3.7)
Sophomore	19	(23.2)
Junior	60	(73.2)
	82	(100.0)

TABLE 10 - School and Major at UCLA

Letters and Science (68)

15 Psychology
7 History
6 Life Science
6 Computer Science (Math)
5 Chemistry
5 English
3 Geography
2 French
2 Linguistics
2 Earth Sciences
2 Anthropology
2 Sociology
1 Spanish
1 Latin
1 Philosophy
1 Mathematics
1 Economics
1 Afro American Studies

Fine Arts (9)

3 Theater
2 Art
1 Music
1 Design
2 Not Stated

Engineering (4)

4 Engineering

Public Health (1)

1 Public Health

TABLE II - Cumulative GPA at LACC (from LACC records)

GPA	No.	%
1.00 - 1.49	1	(1.7)
1.50 - 1.99	0	(0.0)
2.00 - 2.49	5	(6.2)
2.50 - 2.99	21	(26.2)
3.00 - 3.49	30	(37.5)
3.50 - 4.00	23	(28.8)
	80	(100.0)

(2 - No Record)
Mean GPA 3.18

TABLE 12 - Cumulative Pre-Transfer GPA (from UCLA records)

GPA	No.	%
2.00 - 2.49	3	(3.7)
2.50 - 2.99	29	(35.4)
3.00 - 3.49	29	(35.4)
3.50 - 4.00	21	(25.6)
	82	

Mean GPA 3.17

TABLE 13 - UCLA GPA (Fall 78 through Spring 80)

GPA	No.	%
0.00	4	(Not Included)
1.50 - 1.99	6	(7.3)
2.00 - 2.49	19	(24.4)
2.50 - 2.99	20	(25.6)
3.00 - 3.49	17	(21.8)
3.50 - 4.00	16	(20.5)
	82	(100.0)

Mean GPA 2.87
Note: 8% below C average
42% B average or above

TABLE 14 - Quarter Units Completed (through Spring 1980)Total

40 - 59	1	(1.2)
60 - 79	1	(1.2)
80 - 99	7	(8.5)
100 - 119	6	(7.3)
120 - 139	13	(15.9)
140 - 159	15	(18.3)
160+	39	(47.6)
	82	(100.0)

Mean 146.0
Median 157.3

TABLE 15 - Quarter Units Completed (through Spring 1980) UCLA

0 - 19	9	(11.0)
20 - 39	9	(11.0)
40 - 59	13	(15.8)
60 - 79	45	(54.9)
80 - 99	6	(7.3)
	82	(100.0)

Mean 55.2
Median 64.0

TABLE 16 - Grades Earned at UCLA Fall 1978 - Spring 1980 by Department (all grades)

Department	A	B	C	D	F	P	NP	I	Total (all)	Total Incl. in GPA	GPA
Amer. Stud.	1								1		
African Stud.	3	2	2		1				8	8	2.75
Anthropology	22	12	16	2	3	1		2	58	55	2.87
Arch & U.P.	1								1		
Art	25	25	12			4		1	67	62	3.21
Asian-Amer. St.	1	1							2		
Astronomy	2	1	2	3		1			9	8	2.25
Bacteriology	2	2	3	1		2			10	8	2.62
Biology	6	8	23	6	2	4		1	50	45	2.22
CED	2					2			4		
Chemistry	11	39	29	4	4			2	89	87	2.56
Classics	11	7	3						21	21	3.38
Comm. Stud.	1	2	1						4		
Computer Sci.	29	17	13		3				62	62	3.11
Dance		1				1			2		
Economics	1	13	16	7	4		2		43	41	2.00
Education	1				1				2		
Engineering	34	22	20	5	1			1	83	82	3.01
English	22	43	17		4	4		4	94	86	2.92
Folklore	2		1			2		5	10	3	
French	18	9	2	1	1				31	31	3.35
Geography	18	14	19	3	2	2		2	60	56	2.79
Geol. & E.S.	6	12	4			1			23	22	3.09
German	3	1				1			5		
History	20	53	36	2	2	8	1	1	123	123	2.77
Humanities		1	1						2		
Italian	4	1	3	3	1	1			13	12	2.33
Journalism		1							1		
Latin	4	3							7	7	3.57
Linguistics	19	5			3	1		1	29	27	3.37
L. & I. Sci.	1		2						3		
Management	1	4	4						9	9	2.67
Mathematics	42	37	32	3	9	3		1	127	123	2.81
Music	13	14	7	1	1	3			39	36	3.03
Oriental Lang.	10	3				4			17	13	3.77
Philosophy	9	3				4			16	12	3.75
Physics	10	7	14	7	2	1			41	40	2.40
Political Sci.	12	32	26		2	1			73	72	2.72
Portuguese	1								1		
Psychology	47	47	41	4	2	9	1		151	141	2.94
Public Health	2	3	1			1			7	6	3.17
Russian	2								2		

TABLE 16 - Continued

Department	A	B	C	D	F	P	NP	I	Total (all)	Total Incl. in GPA	GPA
Sociology	15	12	3	3	1	2	1		37	34	3.09
Speech	3								3		
Spanish	13	7	2	1	2	3			28	25	3.12
Subject A								1	1		
Theater Arts	23	22	4	2	3		1		55	54	3.11
Turkish	1								1		
Totals	474	486	359	58	54	66	6	22	1525	1431	2.89
	31.1	31.9	23.5	3.8	3.5	4.3	0.4	1.4	100.0		

TABLE 17 - GPA's Earned at UCLA by Department (N≥25, Ranked)

Linguistics	27	3.37
French	31	3.35
Art	62	3.21
Spanish	25	3.12
Computer Science	62	3.11
Theater Arts	54	3.11
Sociology	34	3.09
Music	36	3.03
Engineering	31	3.01
Psychology	141	2.94
English	86	2.92
Anthropology	55	2.87
Mathematics	123	2.81
Geography	56	2.77
History	113	2.77
Political Science	72	2.72
Chemistry	87	2.56
Physics	40	2.40
Biology	45	2.22
Economics	41	2.00

TABLE 18 - UCLA GPA's Fall 78 through Spring 80 (by selected subgroups)

Group	No. in Group	UCLA GPA
Total	78	2.87
Sex		
Males	34	2.84
Females	44	2.89

TABLE 18 - Continued

Group	No. in Group		UCLA GPA	
Age in 1978				
Below 21	15		2.79	
21 - 25	35		2.71	
26 - 30	12		3.00	
31 - 35	11		3.11	
Over 35	5		3.20	
Ethnic				
Black	14		2.57	
Asian	25		2.74	
Hispanic	8		2.99	
White	31		3.08	
No. of semesters at LACC				
2 or less	17		3.16	
3 - 4	20		2.90	
5 - 6	24		2.54	
More than 6	17		2.99	
College at UCLA				
Letters & Sci.	64		2.83	
Fine Arts	9		2.97	
Engineering	4		3.12	
Public Health	1		3.25	
Major at UCLA				
Social Sci.	21		2.87	
history		7		3.04
Political Sci.		5		2.95
Geography		3		2.58
Anthropology		2		3.25
Sociology		2		2.75
Economics		1		2.25
Afro Amer St.		1		2.25
Psychology	12		2.88	
Humanities (let.)	8		2.92	
English		5		2.53
Linguistics		2		3.75
Philosophy		1		3.25
Fine Arts	7		2.89	
Theater		3		2.92
Art		2		3.50
Music		1		2.25
Design		1		2.25
Phys. Sci. & Math	7		2.75	
Chemistry		4		2.62
Earth Sci.		2		2.50
Math		1		3.75

TABLE 18 - Continued

Biol. Sci.	6		2.32	
Computer Sci.	6		2.92	
Engineering	4		3.12	
Foreign Language	4		3.12	
French		2		3.25
Spanish		1		2.25
Latin		1		3.75
Health Occup.	2		2.75	
Health		1		3.25
Nursing		1		2.25
Not Stated	1		3.25	

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

This study provides an "in-depth" look at LACC students transferring to UCLA in Fall 1978. Data were provided by UCLA and by the LACC Office of Admissions. Following are some observations on the findings:

(1) 97 students transferred from LACC to UCLA in Fall 1978. Of these 82 were "charged" to LACC (the others being admitted by Special Action.) Although data in this study do not identify "eligibles" and "ineligibles" other sources indicate that about 40% were eligible to enter the University directly from high school.

(2) Over half (56%) of the transfers were female.

(3) Nearly 60% of the transfers belonged to an ethnic minority. 32% were Asian (over half of these from Southeast Asia or Korea), 17% Black, 10% Hispanic.

(4) Age at time of transfer ranged from 17 to 53, median age 23.

(5) 73% transferred as Juniors, 23% as Sophomores, 4% as Freshmen (Note: "ineligibles" are required to complete 56 units before transfer; not so for "eligibles."

(6) Number of semesters at LACC ranged from one to ten, median 5 semesters with 54 units completed.

(7) About 40% attended high school in 15 different L.A. city high schools. 23% last attended a foreign high school, about half in the Far East.

(8) 83% entered the College of Letters and Sciences; most popular major was Psychology (18% of the total, more than double that of any other major.)

(9) Comparison of UCLA computation of "pre-transfer" GPA with locally educated LACC GPA shows an average of 3.2 for each.

(10) Overall GPA earned at UCLA (Fall 1978 through Spring 1980) was 2.87. This figure matches one provided earlier showing first year GPA only. 42% of the students earned a B average or above, 8% fell below a C average.

(11) Departments in which LACC transfers performed well (above B average) at UCLA included Foreign Language (French, Spanish, Latin, Classics, Oriental Languages), Fine Arts (Art, Music, and Theater), Computer Sciences, Engineering, and Sociology.

(12) Students had most difficulty in courses in Economics and Biology, but no departmental average was below C.

(13) When comparing GPA at UCLA for various subgroups of the transfers, it can be noted that:

(1) Females performed better than males
(2) Older transfers performed better than younger
(3) Whites and Hispanics performed better than Asian & Black
(4) Students in other colleges (Fine Arts, Engineering, Public Health) performed better than those in Letters and Science.
(5) Students with majors in Foreign Language and Engineering performed best, followed by those with majors in Computer Sciences & Humanities.

It is clear that the numbers of transfers to UCLA (and other four-year institutions) has been declining in recent years. From the evidence in this report, however, it appears that the quality of performance at UCLA has deteriorated little, if any, in recent years.

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